

Encountering Jesus Through Prayer

Text: Luke 11:1–13

Opening

- Prayer is essential to Christian life (Luther & Tozer quotes).
 - Many of us treat prayer as routine rather than transformative.
 - Disciples asked Jesus to “*teach us to pray*”—not how to heal or perform miracles, but how to commune with God.
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I. “Teach Us to Pray” (v.1)

- Focus on priorities in prayer, not just requests.
 - Prayer reveals the heart of God.
 - Jeremiah 33:3 — *Call to Me, and I will tell you great and hidden things.*
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II. Structure of Jesus’ Prayer (vv.2–4)

- **Position before Petition** – “*Father*” → Bold, confident, and reverent.
 - **Alignment before Asking** – “*Your kingdom come*” → Align our will with God’s.
 - **Dependence before Security** – “*Give us each day our daily bread*” → Daily trust, reliance on God.
 - **Forgiveness before Protection** – “*Forgive us... as we forgive others*” → Release and receive forgiveness.
 - **Humility before Strength** – “*Lead us not into temptation*” → Dependence on God’s guidance.
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III. Persistence in Prayer (vv.5–8)

- Parable of the Friend at Midnight → “shameless boldness”
 - Persistence is trust in God’s timing, not nagging.
 - Prayer shapes us as much as it requests from God.
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IV. Ask, Seek, Knock (vv.9–13)

- **Ask** → Bring needs honestly; acknowledge dependence.

- **Seek** → Pursue God's heart and will, not just outcomes.
- **Knock** → Persist in trust; God responds according to His goodness.
- **Key Assurance:** God is a good Father; ultimate gift = the Holy Spirit.

Memorable Takeaway:

Prayer is not about bending God to our will—it's about being shaped by His heart.

V. Application

- Approach prayer as a relationship with a Father, not as a defendant.
- Pray for transformation, not just solutions.
- Depend on God daily, not self-sufficiency.
- Persist and seek wholeheartedly in prayer.
- Trust God to give what is best, including His Spirit.

Closing Prayer Thought:

May your prayers be bold, your faith steadfast, and your heart aligned with your loving Father.